

## **CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (CIPA)**

### **Fact Sheet**

#### **WHEN CIPA WENT INTO EFFECT**

For public libraries and consortia, the provisions of CIPA took effect with grants applications submitted for FY 2004/05 (the grant period was July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005, in California).

#### **RELATIONSHIP TO E-RATE**

LSTA-recipient libraries that also receive Internet services at discount rates (not telecomm) under the E-Rate program must already certify compliance with CIPA under that program and simply have to confirm their E-Rate certification to the State Library on Form A.

#### **DISABLING A FILTER OR UNBLOCKING A PARTICULAR WEB SITE**

A filter does not have to be kept "on" non-stop. Any authorized staff may disable a filter to allow unrestricted Internet access for any lawful purpose as spelled out in the CIPA and the Court decision. It is desirable that a library develop a policy and procedures to make unblocking technically easy and least burdensome to staff and patrons. The unblocking of individual computers may be difficult if the library uses a local or wide area network-based filter or a filtering service provided by an Internet Service Provider. Seeking the most flexibility, i.e., ability to unblock a given machine at a given session may be the best solution.

#### **STAFF COMPUTERS**

The language of the CIPA makes no distinction between computers used only by staff and those accessed by the public, whether minors or adults. If a library has some computers that fall under CIPA rules, then all computers with Internet access must be filtered. For example, administrative Internet-connected computers not accessible to the public must still have filters but the filter can be disabled temporarily.

#### **OTHER QUESTIONS?**

Please contact Rush Brandis, CIPA Coordinator at the State Library, (916) 653-5471, [rbrandis@library.ca.gov](mailto:rbrandis@library.ca.gov).

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

“FAQ on E-rate Compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, February 19, 2004,” Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction, Div. for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning. This site includes a list of supplemental resources at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/cipafaq.html>.

Sec. 9134(f), “Internet Safety” provisions – an excerpt from the U.S. Code may be found at: <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/20/9134.html>.

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